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The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

February 7, 2022

The Hon. Marco Mendicino

Minister of Public Safety

259 Laurier Avenue, West

Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

Prime Minister and Minister Mendicino,

As you know, the City of Ottawa is facing unprecedented, unlawful demonstrations that are threatening the safety of the Ottawa community and our federal parliamentary institutions. The Ottawa Police Service has been doing everything in its power to bring this demonstration to a safe and peaceful end as quickly and safely as possible.

What was initially described as a peaceful protest has now turned into a siege of our downtown area. As of today, there are currently between 400 and 500 trucks occupying Ottawa's downtown core. The City's by-law officers have issued over 1000 tickets and remain vigilant in enforcement activities. Ottawa City Council is holding a special meeting to consider several motions to address this unprecedented situation.

At first, this was labeled as a protest against the public health policies that democratically elected governments at the provincial and federal levels have enacted to protect us from the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

But sadly, the demonstration has turned into an aggressive and hateful occupation of our neighbourhoods, which has nothing to do with the truckers' quarrel against vaccine mandates enacted by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and municipal governments.

Let's not forget the words and symbols of hatred that we have witnessed throughout this occupation: Confederate flags, Nazi flags, racial and homophobic harassment towards our own residents – in a city that rightfully prides itself on being caring and compassionate.



These acts and the occupation are having damaging and long-term impacts on the well-being of our residents.

People are living in fear and are terrified – and they've now been subjected to the non-stop honking of large trucks for nine days, which is tantamount to psychological warfare.

Although we are grateful for and have started to welcome the additional officers on loan to the City from the RCMP, the OPP and other forces, we need a dramatic and immediate injection of additional officers.

Given the scope and scale of the armada of large trucks that are now occupying our downtown core, we are writing to you today to ask that you work to help the City secure 1800 officers to quell the insurrection that the Ottawa Police Service is not able to contain.

The following resources are required on an urgent basis: 1000 regular officers, 600 public order officers, 100 investigative officers, 100 civilian staff, and all supporting resources. This includes, cyber investigative capacity, digital and social media forensics, and financial forensics.

We ask the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to work with us to secure this combined officer surge from the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and municipal police forces willing to participate from Ontario and other provinces.

We must do everything in our power to take back the streets of Ottawa, and our parliamentary precinct, from the criminal activity and hooliganism that has transpired over the last nine days

We need your help to end this siege in the heart of our nation's capital and in our residential neighbourhoods, and to regain control of our city.

Our hope is that your department can help coordinate a response that matches the scale of the challenge we are facing.

We can contain the occupation, but we cannot end it without your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa

Councillor Diane Deans
Chair
Ottawa Police Services Board